

Technical Issues Committee (TIC)
Meeting Notes
14 March 2006

Attendees:

Dr. Karl Longley, Central Valley Water Board
Bill McKinney, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Bill Thomas, Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Claus Suverkropp, Larry Walker and Associates
Dan Waligora, Department of Fish and Game
Dania Huggins, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Dave Ceppos, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)
Devra Lewis, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Joe McGahan, Westside SJR Watershed Coalition
Leticia Valadez, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Margie Lopez Read, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Valerie Connor, State Water Resources Control Board
Melissa Morris, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mike Johnson, UC Davis
Sandy Nurse, Sierra Foothill Laboratory
Stephen Clark, Pacific EcoRisk
Tina Lunt, Northern California Water Association
Jay Rowan, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jim Atherstone, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Keith Larson, Turlock Irrigation District
Marshall Lee, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Tom Kimball, Kimball Environmental Management
Jody Edmunds, URS
Roberta Firoved, California Rice Commission
Lenwood Hall, University of Maryland
Wendy Cohen, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Action Items

1. TIC Members will develop alternative language to address concerns expressed about the Tentative MRP, page 8, last paragraph on Management Practices implementation.
2. The SWAMP program will work with the Irrigated Lands Coalitions to 1) develop a crosswalk between ToxCalc and SWAMP, 2) provide training for utilizing the database, QAPP development, and 3) to solicit constructive comments and suggested changes for modifications that can be made to the database.
3. TIC members wish to work on re-wording the ILP QAPP so that it is better coordinated with the SWAMP QAPP. A focus group (laboratory?) discussion for this will be arranged.

4. TIC members are going to provide comment on the studies that are used to provide numeric interpretation of narrative quality objectives. The appropriate focus group may be the Triggers Focus Group.
5. The Triggers group will continue to expand upon and improve the Options Table for storm water that was presented, and to draft up Problem Statements and language for a recommendation.
6. Language in the Tentative MRP will need to be clarified by staff so that the submittal of data for the ILP is consistent with SWAMP requirements .
7. Stephen Clark of Pacific EcoRisk, and Sandy Nurse of Sierra Foothill Labs will work on developing cost-estimates for a laboratory to submit electronic data in a SWAMP comparable format.
8. G. Fred Lee will make sure that his comments regarding the UCDavis pesticide prioritization work is distributed to the TIC.
9. The Task Descriptions for the Critical Path will be modified so that they match more clearly with the Gant Chart, and so that the concept of iterative feedback with Central Valley Water Board staff on policy and comments is clarified.
10. Water Board staff will organize a presentation by Fish and Game regarding the Bioassessment project in Central Valley agriculture lands.
11. CCP will provide recommendations to staff about comment tracking protocols/methods to enhance readability of subsequent MRP recommendations/revisions from the TIC and Staff.
12. Staff and the TIC will further discuss the term “source” in a future meeting to ensure that there is shared meaning on the term and that there is clarity on it’s use.
13. Focus groups will continue to meet to provide proposed recommendations for the 11 April meeting.

A. Discussion of Tentative Coalition MRP – Track Changes

The Tentative Coalition Group MRP in track-edit mode (identifying the changes from the 15 August 2005 MRP) was distributed at the 14 February meeting. There was a brief discuss regarding the document at this March meeting. There were two concerns as follows:

1. The last paragraph on page 8 (management practices and linkage to water quality) needs to reflect the uncertainties and complications in showing the effects on water quality of MP implementation.
2. Load calculations are not viable in this watershed context. Unlike load calculations from a wastewater treatment facility, the amount of any given contaminant in any

sample most typically varies widely. Assumptions about load, based on monthly sampling, is not reasonable.

Staff noted that the language in that particular paragraph was the result of the MP working group, almost a year ago. There was also a request for suggestions from the TIC on alternative language on the two topics.

B. SWAMP and electronic data submittal

Val Connor, State Water Resources Control Board, gave a presentation on the advantages of utilizing a SWAMP comparable database. The SWAMP program is the result of 1999 legislation, and submittal of the data in SWAMP (or comparable) format is being required of all Board Programs at this time. It will become a highly useful tool that will provide high quality data to the public. Although the effort for initial data upload is significant, the results can help coalitions save costs for monitoring in the long term.

It was also noted that the language in the Tentative MRP for electronic data submittal needed to be improved so that the requirement to make data submittals comparable to SWAMP is clarified. There should also be some time schedule for achieving this that will allow for Coalitions to develop the resources to do this.

C. Policy Work Group Update

Staff announced that two Policy Work group meetings had taken place since the last TIC meeting. Bill Thomas, who attends these meetings, briefly reported on the discussions which have started with two main issues: membership lists and definition of a discharger. The group may also discuss other issues.

D. Critical Path Schedule

The TIC reviewed the critical path schedule, and some concern was expressed about the feasibility of meeting the timelines. Dave Ceppos suggested that the TIC continue to move forward for the next couple of weeks before deciding about extending the schedule.

Dave Ceppos provided the TIC with a proposal for TIC decision-making. There were no comments or requests for changes by the members, but feedback can still be provided to Dave Ceppos over the course of the next few weeks.

E. Triggers Focus Group Recommendations

The following recommendation was approved by the TIC as one item to recommend to Staff:

‘When a ‘statistically significant’ reduction is observed for a sample, but the magnitude of the reduction between the sample and the control is less than 20%, follow-up sampling will not be required, which is consistent with the approach applied by SWAMP monitoring efforts. Samples that are ‘statistically significant’ and that exhibit a greater than or equal to 20% reduction in organism response compared to the control will require follow-up sampling.

Samples that exhibit a statistically significant reduction in organism response when compared to the laboratory control must still be reported to the CVRWQCB as an exceedance of the narrative water quality objective for toxicity.

The diagram for this recommendation is provided below:

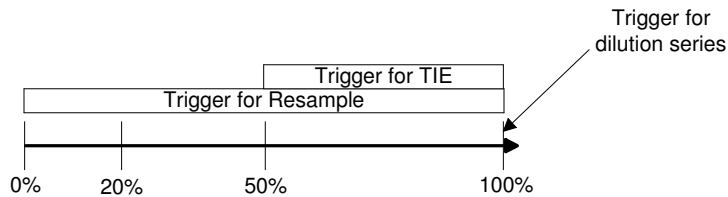


Figure 1a. Toxicity resample requirement under the current tentative MRP

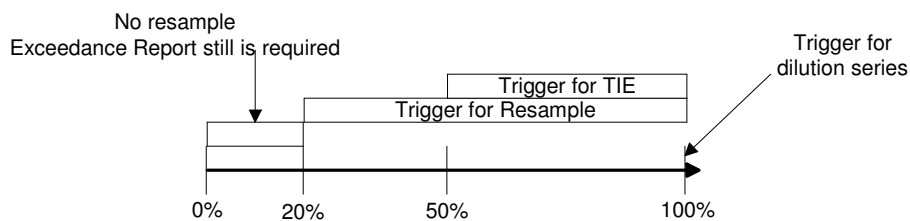


Figure 1b. Toxicity resample recommendation by the toxicity trigger focus group

Since the 14 February TIC meeting, the Triggers Focus Group has also met twice to discuss other MRP recommendations. The attention at this point has been with two aspects of storm season monitoring, as follows:

1. Trigger to conduct storm water monitoring
2. Follow-up to exceedances of water quality objectives during storm events.

Item #2 has been further broken down into different approaches that would be used for toxicity exceedances, field test exceedances, bacteriological exceedances, and pesticide/metals/other chemistry exceedances.

A table has been prepared, and was distributed to the TIC with various options for the above items. It was discussed that a variety of choices were necessary because what might work for one coalition, may be very inappropriate for another. Furthermore, even within one coalition, the approach to follow-up might be different from one monitoring site to another.

The one recommendation that did come out of the Triggers Focus Group for these two storm water items was that there should be flexibility written into the MRP that would allow Coalitions to choose from a set of options, and submit those choices to the CVRWQCB for approval, documented in a coalition MRP Plan.